

Q&A

Basic Idea and General Information

- Funding is provided by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research & Economy and the State of Upper Austria
- The call is open to everyone who have already obtained a PhD degree
- Topics are not limited to topics listed in the call
- A PI may only submit one proposal per year (i.e. submit to every second call) - focus on the best idea you have
- Costs
 - Personnel (Personalkostensätze Austrian Science Fund (Website))
 - Other: Miscellaneous expenses
 - Co Funding: nice to have but not a requirement
- We expect to finance 10-15 projects per funding round

1. When will decisions regarding the first call be rendered?

- (The Austrian Science Fund review process is approximately 3-4 months + a few weeks to render the decision)

2. Young Career Projects – The call states that early career researchers (those who have obtained PhD within the past 5 years) can take part – How strict is the 5 year time period?

- Exceptions can be made in some cases (maternity leave, long illness,...)

3. Advance Projects – Submitting Rejected Austrian Science Fund Proposals

- You can submit a rejected project proposal that has been evaluated with high marks (i.e., FWF C1 or C2. ERC: Evaluation Step2 B2).
- In addition, please submit the complete, rejected project proposal, plus the feedback you received (does not count towards your page limit)
- Only proposals rejected since spring 2016 are permitted.

4. Is there a maximum budget limit?

- There is no upper limit for funding, however you should apply only for the amount necessary in order for your project to be successful (average budget between 50 k and 200 k)
- If there are two smaller excellent projects vs. one larger project that has same budget needs and they are equally good, then we will most likely choose to fund the two smaller projects. Hence, be frugal with that amount you ask for.

5. What are the rules regarding equipment?

- Talk to your institute/department first before requesting equipment.
- Smaller equipment will be allowed. The price(s) for larger equipment may need to be negotiated. Please be clear if the project cannot succeed unless the equipment is purchased

6. Funding other institutions

- We do not normally provide funding for other organisations or universities unless it is for goods or services (i.e., access to machines, etc.)
- Funding for external personnel costs will not be provided (there is no funding for scientists from other organisations)

7. Review

- Reviewers can be excluded

8. Personnel Expenses

- Permanent JKU staff will not be funded
- PI co-funding is possible (i.e., 75% Austrian Science Fund and 25% LIT is ok) but it is not possible to fund beyond full employment.
- The personnel costs that can be requested for doctoral candidates are limited to a maximum of 30 hours/week. Additional funding may be provided through other means but it is not possible to fund beyond full employment.

9. IPR

- The intellectual property of inventions belongs to JKU

10. CV Section – Who Should Complete the Forms for an Interdisciplinary Project?

- 1 person must be designated as the project leader (PI)
- Add CVs of PI and all of the partners
- There are several groups within LIT and every PI will serve as group leader (rotation of group leader)

11. Longer Project Perspective (longer than 2 years)

- Reviewers have to assess the project's long term vision; if there is no long term vision → application rejection
- You cannot have a follow-up LIT project on the same idea!

12. If funding is available for 2 years, will it be a problem if the project does not begin during the first year?

- There are no specific regulations in this regard and you can choose when you need personnel during the course of your project period
- Please remember: any money not used after 3 years must to be paid back to the ministry

- You can state your funding budget without providing any deadlines in regards as to how you spend it within the project's approved period

13. Project Preference

- The project should be technologically relevant, at least in a few years
- We will try to keep the subject area as broad as possible

14. Collaboration and Seed Projects

- Can be anyone – also at other universities
- Funding, however, is only available to those at the JKU

15. Does LIT provide funding for visiting external collaborators?

- Yes (for reasonable travel and living expenses)

16. Can we collaborate with scientists at other institutions?

- Absolutely, but they need to acquire their own funding. Funds provided by LIT may not be used to pay external personnel costs.

17. PI Salary

- Please use standard Austrian Science Fund salaries. A higher salary may be negotiable under exceptional circumstances (e.g., career accelerator PIs)

18. Location

- The project should identify a hosting JKU institute/department with a point of contact (head of institute or head of department)
- Office space and other infrastructure must be provided by this host.
- Include the relevant confirmation by the head of institute or department ("Endorsement for Project Application / Confirmation of Commitment to Provide Permanent Staff Members & Infrastructure for the Project") in your application.

19. Next Calls

- 13 October 2017